

# Annual Report of the ACM Europe Council

Period: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Submitted by Rosa M Badia

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# 1 Basic Information

## 1.1 Members of the Board

### **Executive:**

Chair: Valérie Issarny, Inria, Paris Research Center, France

Vice Chair: Rosa Badia, Barcelona Super Computing Center (BSC), Spain (Acting as chair since December 2022)

Secretary and Treasurer: Bran Knowles, Lancaster University, UK

Past Chair: Panagiota Fatourou, University of Crete and ICS FORTH, Greece

### **Members:**

Anastasia Ailamaki, EPFL, Switzerland

Oliver Grau, Intel Cooperation, Germany

Rute Sofia, Fortiss, Germany

Harald Storrle, QAware, Germany

Julie Williamson, University of Glasgow, UK

### **Invited Observers:**

Informatics Europe representative: Enrico Nardelli, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy

ERCIM representative: Björn Levin, RISE-SICS, Sweden

### **Standing Committees:**

Informatics4All: Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK; current chair Michael Caspersen, Aarhus University, Denmark.

ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee: Chris Hankin, Imperial College London, UK

ACM-Women Europe: Rukiye Altin, Kiel University, Germany

ACM European Fellows Working Group: Anastasia Ailamaki, EPFL, Switzerland

ACM Europe Research Visibility Working Group: Panagiota Fatourou, University of Crete and FORTH, Greece

ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group: Georgia Koutrika, Athena Research Center, Greece

ACM Europe Education Committee: Judith Gal-Ezer, Open University of Israel, Israel

## 2 Summary

The ACM Europe Council focuses on a wide range of ACM activities and on encouraging greater participation of Europeans in all dimensions of ACM. It aims to promote dialogue and the exchange of ideas on technology and computing policy issues between the European Commission and other governmental bodies and funding agencies in Europe, and the informatics and computing communities. It also aims to foster education in the computer science field in Europe, to award and disseminate the achievements of European computer professionals, to support gender equality and more generally inclusion in the European computing landscape, and to promote access to the computer-related scientific frontiers.

According to the above, the main activities (see referenced appendices for detail) of the ACM Europe Council include:

- Engagement with the European Commission of the EU and other national and international funding agencies, as well as with the European Parliament and other policy bodies in relevant activities and initiatives (see Appendix on ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee).
- Advocating for the inclusion of Informatics as a foundational discipline in schools across Europe (see Appendix on Informatics for All and ACM Europe Education Committee). An important development this year has been the establishing of the ACM Europe Education Committee. The motivation for setting up this committee has been recognition that there are specifically ACM educational issues that have to be addressed within ACM Europe.
- Support gender equality in the European computing landscape (see Appendix on ACM-Women Europe).
- Increasing nominations of ACM European members for the ACM member grades (see Appendix on ACM European Fellows Working Group). This year, the Working Group has contributed to have 6 European researchers being elevated to the rank of ACM Fellows.
- Achieve greater visibility of the European research and ensure a higher degree of recognition for the achievements of European Researchers within the scope of ACM Europe (see Appendix on ACM Europe Research Visibility Working Group).
- Support ACM Seasonal Schools in Europe. In 2022/23, the Council sponsored six schools. Their topics ranged from Computer Architectures, Massively Parallel Systems and Data Science to Recommender Systems, CyberSecurity, and Digital Humanism (see Appendix on ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group).
- Collaboration with other computing and scientific organizations in Europe to offer new programs and activities (in particular Informatics Europe and ERCIM), with representatives being invited to the biannual plenary meetings of the ACM Council.

The ACM Europe Council holds biannual plenary meetings, the Autumn and Spring meetings. While previous meetings during COVID-19 pandemic took place online, the fall and spring meeting were organized as a hybrid event, the first in Paris on 19 October 2022 and the second in Barcelona on 13 March 2023. The ACM Europe Executive committee further holds monthly online meetings.

As a result of the March meeting, the RAISE strategic agenda has been adopted as the agenda for the ACM Europe Council, who is actually working on implementing it by organising a subset of new groups that will be further discussed in the next Fall meeting on October 10th in Amsterdam.

## 3 Appendixes

### 3.1 ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee

Activity Report July 2022-June 2023

Chris Hankin (Chair for the reporting period)

#### 3.1.1 Status of the Committee

Members (14 + ex officio):

- Chris Hankin (Chair), Paola Inverardi (Vice Chair), Oliver Grau (Past Chair), Fabrizio Gagliardi, Manuel Hermenegildo, Bran Knowles (Chair, Climate Change WG), Alejandro Saucedo (Chair, AI WG), Gerhard Schimpf (Chair, Autonomous Systems WG), Tom Crick, Wendy Hall, Andrew McGettrick, Enrico Nardelli, Gurkan Solmaz, Julie Williamson
- Ex officio: Yannis Ioannidis (ACM President), Jim Hendler (TPC Chair), Michel Beaudouin-Lafon (Vice Chair TPC), Jeremy Epstein (Chair USTPC), Natasa Milic-Frayling (ACM-W Europe), Vicki Hanson (ACM CEO), Pat Ryan (ACM COO), Adam Eisgrau (ACM Director of Global Policy)

Hankin, Inverardi, Grau, Gagliardi and Hermenegildo serve as the ACM Europe TPC Executive, which largely conducted business by email and met virtually in November 2022. The full TPC also made extensive use of email to confer and convened virtually in March 2023. There were no physical meetings in the reporting period. As projected last year, we will use our travel budget for targeted interventions on particular policy issues and will continue to convene the full committee virtually as needed.

#### 3.1.2 Work of the committee

In FY22 the Committee adjusted its Working Group roster, retaining its groups on Climate Change, Cyber Security and Autonomous Systems, refocusing a fourth former group on "Differential AI," and creating a fifth new group on "Data Science" (for which a chair continues to be sought at this writing). In addition to these activities, we have again been very active in responding to EU and UK consultations, and producing other (unsolicited) outputs, as detailed below.

Throughout the period we have continued to engage a part-time consultant, Francisco Medeiros, to help promote our policy-related outputs and maintain a network of contacts with key EU policy makers.

##### 3.1.2.1 Dissemination of statements and white papers

- Statement on [Joint Principles for the Development, Deployment, and Use of Generative AI Technologies](#), ACM TPC, Europe/US Technology Policy Committees (June 27, 2023)
- [Comments to UK Government on AI Regulation: A Pro-Innovation Approach White Paper](#), Europe Technology Policy Committee (June 20, 2023)
- [Comments to European Commission re Regulated Data Access Under the Digital Services Act](#), Europe Technology Policy Committee (May 23, 2023)

- [Comments to European Commission re EU Initiative on Virtual Worlds](#), Europe Technology Policy Committee (May 3, 2023)
- [Comments to European Commission re Key Performance Indicators for 2030 Digital Decade Policy Programme](#), Europe Technology Policy Committee (March 13, 2023)
- [Comments in European Commission Cyber Resilience Act Consultation](#), Europe Technology Policy Committee (January 23, 2023)
- Joint [Statement on Principles for Responsible Algorithmic Systems](#), ACM TPC, Europe/US Technology Policy Committees (October 26, 2022)
  - [Statement in Spanish](#)

### 3.1.3 Liaisons with other initiatives

The Committee continues to liaise with several other initiatives or committees, particularly Informatics for All (I4All), as three members serve on both.

Through our consultant, we have maintained contact with the European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Committee.

Europe TPC, having been accepted in FY22 as a supporting partner for the European Green Digital Coalition, has engaged with some of their working groups. This year, the Committee successfully requested associate membership in the European Internet Forum (EIF), which is sponsored by Members of the European Parliament, and has contributed to the EIF programming committee.

### 3.1.4 Plans

We have had a busy year and plan to continue this momentum. For the next year, we will continue our relationship with the Brussels-based consultant. We plan to formalize our operational procedures, which will open up the Committee to a broader membership as per USTPC. We also have initiated some work to develop initiatives to attract new members which will include a webinar series that we hope to launch in the late Autumn of 2023. AI and Cyber Security continue to be major focus areas in Europe, and we will continue our longstanding policy work in these areas. We will aim to engage with the European Commission and the Parliament to shape the policy landscape for the new Commission and Parliament that will start late in 2024. We will do this by direct approaches and also through our partnerships with EIF and EGDC. Where possible, we will work with USTPC on policy issues of shared interest to maximize the global impact of our work.

### 3.1.5 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

EUROPE TPC is committed to supporting the work of ACM Women in Europe (ACM-WE) with the aim of increasing the involvement of women in the Europe TPC. A member of ACM-WE sits, ex officio, on Europe TPC and is invited to all full Committee meetings. The current members of the committee are from the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland with one of the ex officio members coming from France.

We continue to seek members from Scandinavia and Central Europe to join the working groups.

## 3.2 ACM Seasonal Schools Report 2023

Georgia Koutrika

ACM Seasonal Schools focus on educating researchers on a general or specialized topic over the duration of one or two weeks (i.e., longer than other traditional meetings), and they involve a small number of students. As such, they provide a separate instrument for serving the computing community, achieving different goals from those of typical conferences and their various tracks and workshops. The working group members are: Angela Bonifati (Lyon 1 University), Fabrizio Gagliardi (Barcelona Supercomputing Center), Georgia Koutrika (Athena Research Center), Natasa Milic-Frayling (Intact Digital), Enrico Nardelli (University of Roma "Tor Vergata"). The web page for the working group can be found here: <https://europe.acm.org/seasonal-schools-working-group>.

This year, the working group issued the first Call for Proposals for Seasonal Schools with a submission deadline of March 1st, 2023. 10 proposals were received. The WG evaluated them based on several criteria, including impact of each proposal, diversity of topics, and the organizing committee. Six schools were endorsed for 2023. Their topics ranged from Computer Architectures, Massively Parallel Systems and Data Science to Recommender Systems, CyberSecurity, and Digital Humanism. Information about the ACM Europe Council Seasonal Schools can be found here: <https://europe.acm.org/seasonal-schools/>.

Together with this endorsement, each school received a small financial token to complement their budget and help the organization of each school. Furthermore, ACM provided free 1-year memberships for the students attending the schools and promotional material.

## 3.3 ACM Europe Fellows WorkGroup

### Membership

**Anastasia Ailamaki**, EPFL, CH (chair)

**Hagit Attiya**, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, IL

**Luca Benini**, ETHZ, CH

**Georg Gottlob**, University of Oxford, UK

**Per Stenström**, Chalmers University of Technology, SE

**Reinhard Wilhelm**, Saarland University, DE

**Manuel Hermenegildo**, Technical University of Madrid (UPM), Spain & IMDEA Software Institute

**Michel Beaudouin-Lafon**, University Paris-Saclay & Inria, France

**Carlo Ghezzi**, Politecnico di Milano, IT

The mission of the **ACM Europe Fellows Working Group** is to ensure the elevation of excellent European ACM members to the ACM fellow and to Distinguished Member grades. The candidates will be awarded for their outstanding computer-related science and technology achievements.

The workgroup is comprised of 9 established European Researchers, all ACM Fellows, who have been carefully selected to guarantee, as a group, wide scientific and geographical

coverage. In particular, the Workgroup's members are located in eight different countries in Europe. Their expertise covers a broad spectrum of scientific areas: database management systems and theory, real-time intelligent data systems, distributed and concurrent computing, high-performance computer architecture, embedded systems, timing analysis for real-time systems, compiler construction, global program analysis, parallelism and (resource-aware) parallelizing compilers, constraint/logic/functional programming, theory and implementation, abstract machines, automatic documentation tools, sequential and parallel computer architecture, human-computer interaction, software engineering, model-driven evolution and adaptation of dependable software, theoretical and practical aspects of web data extraction, Graph and hypergraph based computations and problem decomposition methods.

The working tasks of the workgroup can be summarized as follows:

- To identify eligible potential candidates.
- To maintain an updated list of potential candidate/nominator pairs.
- To establish contact with proposed nominators of approved candidates in a timely manner.
- To overall manage the nomination process.

### **Activity in 2023**

On behalf of the workgroup, the chair asked the ACM that the reviewers of rejected nominations for elevation to the fellow member grade provide feedback on the reasons for the rejection. Such feedback is critical input for the nominators and referees to improve and resubmit the nomination package. The request was accepted, and the workgroup thanked the ACM.

In the workgroup meeting of June 2023, the members discussed potential candidates for this year and new committee members. The workgroup submitted five nominations in September 2023.

The workgroup members observe that there are several scientists in Europe worthy of elevation to the Fellow member grade. Still, they are not ACM members (some have never been an ACM member, while others have let their memberships expire).

### **Future Planning**

The group will continue its efforts for more successful nominations. They are also searching for two new committee members. Finally, will also seek ways to promote ACM membership in Europe.

## **3.4 ACM Europe Research Visibility (RAISE) Working Group**

The **ACM Europe Research Visibility working group (ACM Europe RAISE)** of the ACM Europe Council was established on April 2021. Its mission is to achieve greater visibility of the European research and ensure a higher degree of recognition for the achievements of European Researchers within the scope of ACM Europe.

**Website:** <https://europe.acm.org/raise>

**Meetings:** Regular meetings once a month

### **Membership Members (in alphabetic order)**

Rosa M. Badia, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Spain

Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Université Paris-Saclay, France

Panagiota Fatourou, FORTH and University of Crete, Greece (Chair)

Georgia Koutrika, Athena Research Center, Greece (liaison with ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group)

Christian Pilato, Politecnico di Milano, Italy (Secretary)

Alejandro Saucedo, Institute for Ethical AI, UK

Marc Shapiro, Sorbonne-Université and Inria, France

Per Stenstrom, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden (liaison with ACM Europe Fellows Working Group)

### **Contributing ACM Europe Council Members**

Bran Knowles, Lancaster University, UK

Rute Sofia, fortiss GmbH, Germany

### **Extenal Volunteers**

Antonio Fernandez Anta, IMDEA Networks Institute, Spain

### **Goals of ACM Europe RAISE**

1. Boost visibility of European research excellence, by increasing the number of successful nominations of European researchers for ACM Awards,
2. Increase the role of Europe as a hub of research by organizing and promoting events,
3. Collaborate with the ACM management and the SIGs to make Europe more visible in the various ACM bodies and activities,
4. Increase awareness about existing opportunities for recognition of the work of European researchers through the ACM programs and activities,
5. Enhance existing activity of the ACM Europe Council targeting European research/researchers, and create new opportunities for the recognition of the professional achievements of European researchers, if needed.

### **3.4.1 Report and Strategic Document**

Previous activity of the group has allowed to come up with a strategic document which proposes specific directions of work to achieve the goals. The "Report and Strategic Document" has been out since Summer 2022 and it has been approved by the ACM Europe Council at the October 2022 meeting. It can be found under the following URL:

<http://www.ics.forth.gr/~faturu/ACMEuropeRAISEStrategicDoc.pdf>

The report includes statistics and analyses, preliminary assessments, evaluation of existing practices, lists of stakeholders, suggested activity for achieving each goal, strategy for implementing activity, progress indicators, between other content.

During this period the group has worked towards implementing some of the proposed activity after setting priorities and evaluate outcomes.

To report was sent to ACM President and to the ACM Council on November 11, 2022. Also, it was briefly presented by Rosa M Badia during the January 2023 ACM Council meeting. In order to promote it more broadly, was sent to the chair and vice chair of the SIG Governing Board EC. As a result of this action, the group was invited to present the report in the SIG Governing Board meeting on March 10 2023.

### 3.4.2 Activity during the reporting period

#### 3.4.2.1 Boost the visibility of European research excellence - Increase successful nominations to ACM Awards

The group started the activity towards promoting Europeans to ACM Awards. The activity is based on identifying possible nominees and nominators. Since the number of ACM awards is very large, we prioritized a few based on the following criteria: Low European success rate; Generality of the award; Awards for individuals; Awards that provide visibility to Europe. The group was able to promote the nomination of three European to awards by the end of 2022. For four additional awards, the group has identified strong nominees and nominators for 2023.

Lessons learnt: It is important to start early, since the process is long. The main difficulty is finding the right person to act as the nominator. Also, a nominee that initially is identified for an award may end up being nominated for another one, especially if the nominator has strong opinions on which can be the best suited award for the nominee. Once a nominator is identified, most people prefer to prepare the nomination in privacy without necessarily reporting on progress. Therefore, the group loses control on the actual nomination process.

#### 3.4.2.2 Make European Informatics more visible throughout ACM

The group started activities towards publishing a series of ACM Europe interviews highlighting European researchers with significant professional achievements. The group identified two European to interview.

#### 3.4.2.3 Europe Council Best Paper Awards

Another activity of the group has been the selection of conferences where to give the European Council Best Paper awards. The group has set criteria to avoid conference repetition (ideally, not giving the award to the same conference within a 3-year cycle). Also, to promote diversity with more proportional representation across the SIGs and incentivise geographical diversification of European conferences. The aim is to ensure good quality conferences, but also support fledgling conferences (mix), with attention to conference size.

The following conferences were selected in the last period:

- ITiCSE'22 (SIGCSE)
- ICFP'22 (SIGPLAN)
- GoodIT'22 (SIGCAS)
- ASSETS'22 (SIGACCESS)
- IMC'22 (SIGMETRICS)
- HRI'23 (SIGAI)

#### 3.4.2.4 Recommendations for the strategic direction of ACM RAISE

On March 2023 the strategy and activities of the RAISE group were presented at the ACM Europe Council meeting. In the meeting discussion it was pointed out that RAISE had done a great job in developing a strategic plan for the ACM Europe Council. The plan maps very closely with the goals of ACM Europe as articulated in its Articles of Incorporation.

Thus, the ACM Europe Council needs to adopt the goals contained in the RAISE report as its strategic plan going forward. Indeed, it was considered that it was too much for the RAISE group to handle alone all the goals and activities, and that they need to be elevated to the level of Council, specially taking into account that the RAISE group did not have the critical mass of volunteers needed to execute the plan. Given these recommendations, the RAISE group stopped activities shortly after that meeting.

### 3.5 Informatics for All and ACM Europe Educations Committee

An important development this year has been the establishing of the ACM Europe Education Committee. Accordingly, this report must cover the work of that committee as well as the activities of Informatics for All.

#### 3.5.1 ACM Europe Education Committee

The motivation for setting up this committee has been recognition that there are specifically ACM educational issues that have to be addressed within ACM Europe. Informatics for All is a coalition involving Informatics Europe, Cepis and IFIP TC3 and it has been deemed inappropriate to air purely ACM matters at those meetings. Hence the motivation to set up the new committee.

To date there have been two meetings of this committee, which is chaired by Judith Gal-Ezer. Initial discussions involved forming the committee, setting out and agreeing terms of reference and seeking to establish tasks to be accomplished. There is a committee of four: Judith as chair, Michael Caspersen who now chairs Informatics for All, Enrico Nardelli who is President of Informatics Europe, and Andrew McGettrick. Terms of reference have been agreed and have the support of the main ACM Education Board.

In its initial deliberations attention has been drawn to the limited involvement of Europeans in the activities of the ACM Education Board. Moreover, it has been recognised that CS2023 is a document that is clearly relevant to European interests and there is a desire to express a view about that. Likewise for other such documents, e.g. CC2020. These are activities that are ongoing.

#### 3.5.2 Informatics for All

The Coalition is now chaired by Michael Caspersen. Wendy Hall stood down after several years of excellent service. Since Michael has been representing Informatics Europe (IE), a new representative from IE has joined. So, the full Steering Committee is: Michael Caspersen, Judith Gal-Ezer, Enrico Nardelli (IE), Angel Velazquez (IE), Gerald Futschek (CEPIS), Don Passey (IFIP), Mary Webb (IFIP) and Bobby Schnabel (ACM) with Pat Ryan providing excellent support and guidance.

Over recent years, much of the activity of the **Informatics for All** Coalition has revolved around the production of three related reports. The first of these, the Informatics Reference

Framework for School, is the most significant document and pivotal in terms of charting the way ahead. The aim of the second document is to provide guidance and support for those wishing to use the Framework as the basis for the creation of curricula. The purpose of this third document is to use certain topics – which had been highlighted in the first document - as the basis for further development. All documents are now available on <http://www.informaticsforall.org>

A current concern within the steering committee relates to important European Council Recommendations going before the Council in November 2023. Although education is a devolved matter, the Recommendations aim to highlight the importance of informatics education at school level. Steps have been taken to draw attention to country representatives on the importance of these.

As for future work, the education of teachers who can assist with implementing appropriate curricula is a vital matter and active consideration is being given by the Coalition to addressing this matter. Moreover, there is a need to gain some way of measuring informatics competency attainment at country level and work on this is progressing.

### 3.5.3 On ITiCSE

Members of the **Informatics for All Steering** Committee are on the organizing committee of the ACM conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITICSE). ITICSE 2023 took place in Turku, Finland and in 2024 it will be in Milan, Italy.

The best paper award was given this year with no monetary element. Still the procedure of deciding which will be the best paper was the same as previous years by the conference and program chairs and Judith Gal-Ezer as I4All representative.

## 3.6 ACM-WE Report

by Rukiye Altin, ACM-W Europe Chair and Dorota Filipczuk, ACM-W Europe Vice Chair ACM-WE (ACM Women in Computing Europe) Committee that was set up to fulfill the ACM-W mission in Europe is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Members:**

#### **Executive Committee**

- Rukiye Altin, Germany (Chair)
- Ruth G. Lennon, Atlantic Technological University, Ireland (Past Chair)
- Dorota Filipczuk, Norway (Vice Chair)
- Alexandra-Cristina Dediu (Pătrașcu), UK (Communications Chair)
- Duygu Bektik, UK (Celebration Chair)
- Araz Yusubov, Azerbaijan (Project Chair - Wikipedia, Digital Badges)

#### **Ex-Officio**

- Jodi Tims, ACM-W Chair, OH, USA
- Rosa M Badia, ACM Europe Chair, BSC, Spain
- Reyhan Ayfer, Bilkent University, Turkey (ACM-W Europe Founder)
- Arati Dixit (Regional Chair)
- Pat Ryan, ACM Headquarters, New York, USA

## 3.6.1 Activities:

### 3.6.1.1 Celebrations of Women in Computing in Europe

The ACM Celebration of Women in Computing womENCourage™ is the flagship event of ACM-W Europe. The 10<sup>th</sup> womENCourage™ (<https://womencourage.acm.org/2023>) was hosted at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. The theme of the event was “**Computing Connecting Everyone**” which made us reflect on the progress made in computing that allows us to connect with people with diverse backgrounds, ambitions, passions, personalities, and cultures, from academia and industry, in a creative re-connected world after the pandemic.

The event had so many great supporters that included:

- Industries:
  - Sparebank (Diamond)
  - Google (Gold)
  - Smidig.org (Gold)
  - KartAi (Gold)
  - Telenor (Gold)
  - DNV (Gold)
  - QFree (Gold)
  - Eugain (Gold)
  - Kantega (Silver)
  - SINTEF (Silver)
  - HiPEAC (Silver)
  - Visma (Silver)
  - Excited Centre of Excellent IT Education (Silver)
  - Breach (Silver)
  - Norwegian Open Artificial Intelligence Lab (NAIL) (Silver)
- Academic Sponsors
  - NTNU (Diamond)
  - Chalmers University of Technology (Diamond)
  - University of Oslo (Diamond)
  - UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Diamond)
  - UiA: University of Agder (Gold)

The event was a great success, with more than 270 participants from 27 different countries all around the world. The Organizing Committee, which involved 29 ACM members, was a very diverse team of men and women of various computing backgrounds (both in academia and in the industry) and various levels of seniority.

The preparation of the next womENCourage™ is already in progress. The 11<sup>th</sup> womENCourage™ ACM Celebration of Women in Computing will be held in University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid Spain. The event dates are **26-28 June 2024**.

The Organizing Committee of 2023 are guiding the 2024 team under the supervision of the womENCourage™ Steering Committee, which shows that the event has a successful impact on participants for the continuity.

### 3.6.1.2 ACM-W Europe womENCourage™ Steering Committee

The work of steering and overseeing the event has been carried out by a working group of the ACM-W Europe. The ACM-W Europe womENCourage™ Steering Committee is Chaired by Nuria Castell Ariño who was the host of the womENCourage™ 2017 event in Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. The Steering Committee members for 2023/24 are:

- Nuria Castell (Spain)
- Beverly Bachmayer (Austria),
- Ruth Lennon (Ireland),
- Dorota Filipczuk (Norway),
- Rukiye Altin (Germany),
- Araz Yusubov (Azerbaijan),
- Taras V. Panchenko (Ukraine),
- Paloma Diaz (Spain).

We are proud to say that the Committee represents great regional diversity and gender diversity.

The call for hosting the event in 2025 is now open. We are proud to see that the interest in womENCourage™ is increasing annually and the profile of the event is raising, attracting more and more attendees every year.

### 3.6.1.3 ACM-W Europe in Social Media

Alexandra Dediu as new chair of Communication and Outreach has been doing a great job with the communication and outreach working group. This year, she had one volunteer named Amalia Cid Blasco from Spain who was past womENCourage participant. The representation of ACM-W Europe in Social Media is as follows:

- Blog: Available through the website <https://acmweurope.acm.org/blog>; Running a Reflections on womENCourage blog series from the scholarship winners of each event
- ACM-W Europe Website <https://acmweurope.acm.org>
- ACM-W Europe monthly newsletter <https://acmweurope.acm.org/newsletter/>
- Social Media: Social media is currently coordinated by Bedour Alshaigy (coordinator). Social media outlets include:
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACMWomENCourage>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/womencourage>
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5138577>  
The company page can be found here:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/acm-w-europe/>
- Wikipedia: The Wikipedia Working Group is in process. This is a new Working Group that ACM-WE started this year. We are currently building a new team to improve the visibility of European women in computing on Wikipedia. Araz Yusubov, ACM-W Europe Project Chair, is currently driving the project.

### 3.6.1.4 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of ACM-W Europe

On December 10, 2022, ACM-W Europe held its 10th anniversary celebration “ACM-W Europe: 10 Years and Counting”. The virtual event, hosted by Araz Yusubov and ADA University, featured Ruth Lennon (ACM-W Chair), Rukiye Altin (ACM-W Europe Chair) and

Reyyan Ayfer (ACM-W Europe Founder) telling the story of ACM-W Europe and the ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: womENCourage™.

The Celebration attracted participants from 21 countries from Europe and beyond: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Norway, Palestine, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA. The event concluded with an award ceremony and screening of the BBC documentary about the life of Ada Lovelace, “Calculating Ada: The Countess of Computing”.

### 3.6.1.5 ACM-W Europe and ACM-W India Joint Event: Indo-European ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: A Decade Celebration

The first Indo-European ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: A Decade Celebration was held on June 22, 2023 as a virtual event. ACM-W Europe and ACM-W India both celebrated their 10th year anniversaries. During this event, many great experiences and memories were shared with the participants. ACM-W Global Chair Ruth Lennon opened the event with an inspiring welcome speech. ACM-W India Chair Heena Timani and ACM-W Europe Chair Rukiye Altin talked about the ACM-W activities carried out in their regions.

ACM-W India Treasurer Rutvi Shah chaired the first panel about experiences of those who run ACM-W Chapters. We had great guests from both regions who talked about their experiences. ACM Women Trondheim Vice Chair Anna Szlavi, who is also a postdoctoral researcher at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), shared her experiences with being part of the chapter. She also talked about womENCourage™ 2023, as she was one of the Organizing Committee members of the event hosted by her institution in September. Elif Şen, who is ACM Bilkent (Turkey) Chair, showed how an ACM chapter can inspire women in other fields as well with the activities they have been running at Bilkent University. Dr. Geetanjali Kale, who is Chair of ACM-W Pune Professional Chapter (India), inspired us with the amazing works they have been doing. Her words “Collaboration is a key to success” encouraged all of us to have more collaborative works. Shreya Sharma, Chair of the ACM-W chapter at ABESEC (India) and Shagun Kesarwani, Secretary of the ACM-W chapter at ABESEC (India), told us about their journey through ACM-W. We are all inspired by the works that are run by ACM-W chapters a lot.

The second panel of the event was chaired by Dorota Filipczuk who is ACM-W Europe Vice Chair. The guests of our panel were the founders of both regions. Reyyan Ayfer, founder of ACM-W Europe and Arati Dixit, past chair of ACM-W India, told us how the idea of starting regional ACM-W became alive.

This event was the start of a collaboration between ACM-W Europe and ACM-W India. Given that both ACM-W Europe and ACM-W India are striving to achieve the same goals in their respective regions, both regions have agreed to collaborate more in the future and continue exchanging experiences in supporting, celebrating and advocating for women in computing.

### 3.6.1.6 ACM Chapter Buddies

ACM-W has started a new campaign in December 2022 and is encouraging all ACM-W chapters to partner with other ACM-W chapters from the same/different state, country, or region to become a Buddy. The partnerships can be created to achieve some common goal, be it Academic, Social, Professional, or Service. The ACM-W Buddy System aims to inspire collaborations between the ACM-W chapters across the world, overcoming the barrier of distance and time.

We are happy to announce that ACM-W Europe chapters started that collaboration with both its professional and student chapters.

**Professional Chapter Buddies:**

The ACM-W Trondheim Chapter and the ACM-W Greek Chapter are buddies to work on academic projects together. Both are well-established ACM-W chapters with a history of celebrating, supporting and advocating for women in computing. We can't wait to see the work of our two chapters in the future.

**Student Chapter Buddies:**

ATU ACM-W Student Chapter at the Atlantic Technological University, Ireland, and ACM Bilkent, which is at Bilkent University, Turkey became our first student chapter buddies.

The ATU ACM-W Student Chapter is a chapter run by students at Atlantic Technological University, Letterkenny, Ireland. The chapter fulfills the ACM-W mission in supporting, celebrating, and advocating for Women in Computing. The Chapter organizes events to support its members to apply for scholarships, grants and attending events. The ATU ACM-W Student Chapter was founded in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength as we look forward to their 10th anniversary.

ACM Bilkent started its journey as an ACM-W Student chapter called BILWIC (Bilkent University Women in Computing) in 2004. BILWIC, "Bilkent University ACM-W Student Chapter," has the first international ACM-W identity. BILWIC, which has both national and international identity, is the first ACM-W Student Chapter in Turkey, with 181 and more other students. To reach out to more students, the chapter switched to ACM Student Chapter in 2019. ACM Bilkent is organizing talks, workshops, and social activities to bring together various intellectuals while easing access to a wide variety of resources and ultimately acting as a collective voice for its members and chapters.

Our first students' buddies will collaborate on ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: Bean Feasa (wise woman), which will be co-located with the Cyber Research Conference Ireland (Cyber-RCI), which will provide an opportunity to meet with researchers and industry alike. The bean feasa can choose a path in computing, engineering and related fields with the support of the university. This event will include guest speakers and a panel on career pathways. The 1st celebration occurred in 2017 with Dr Toni Collis as our keynote speaking about high performance computing. In 2018 we were delighted to have a number of workshops from industry with representatives from Microsoft, Pramerica and Klarna. As ACM-W Europe, we are proud to sponsor two members from ACM-W Bilkent to join the ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: Bean Feasa event physically.

**3.6.1.7 Reyyan Ayfer Scholarship**

As ACM-W Europe, we wanted to thank our volunteers for the work they have been doing for us over an extended period of time. When the idea was discussed with Executive Committee members, we wanted to show our thanks to Reyyan Ayfer, who is the founder of ACM-W Europe, as well. Therefore, the scholarship name is decided as "Reyyan Ayfer Scholarship". Goal of this scholarship is;

- To highlight and celebrate our volunteers
- to recognize the contributions of the volunteers
- to meet the volunteers in person

Selection process will be in the way below:

- The ACM-WE committee selects exceptional volunteers.
- The applicants will be evaluated with the evaluation form
- Open working group volunteers or project group volunteers

There will be 3 scholarship each year, each covering:

- Travel + Accommodation at womENCourage
- Open to volunteers who made long-term contributions to ACM-W Europe

#### 3.6.1.8 Workshop for Chapters

ACM-W Europe wants to be recognized more so we want to keep our chapters active. For that, we are planning to have a workshop for our chapters to train them how to make local ACM Celebrations. The first workshop is planned to be physical in Mid-December. One member from each chapter will be invited to Brussel and 1,5 days training. ACM-W Europe Vice Chair Dorota Filipczuk and ACM-W Celebration Chair Duygu Bektik are working on the process at the moment.

#### 3.6.1.9 ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: AfricaCWIC 2023

The 2nd ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: AfricaCWIC 2022 is on process with the chairing of Audrey Mbogho. The event is planned for one day including Technical Talks, keynote and Panel Discussions. The event date is planned for the end of December. The Organizing Committee is working with Rukiye Altin, ACM-W Europe Chair, Dorota Filipczuk, ACM-W Europe Vice Chair and Ruth Lennon, ACM-W Global Chair.

#### 3.6.2 Future Plans:

The ACM-W Europe will keep working hard to spread the word of gender diversity in informatics. Our goals for the future plans are:

- Expanding the number of volunteers, at least having two for each working group for continuity.
- Work on increasing the visibility of women in computing through our blog, video series, wikipedia
- Using Social Media actively to reach more people
- Communicating with the other regions and having some collaborative activities.
- Promote the ACM-W Europe through an increased focus on our branding.
- Having more local celebration with the leadership of ACM-W Europe chapters
- Ensure that the Chapter Chairs receive all support they need to fulfill the mission of ACM-W Europe, and that they truly feel that their Chapters are part of a European network of Chapters by remaining connected with others through relevant communication channels
- Involving more chapters to the ACM Buddy System project.